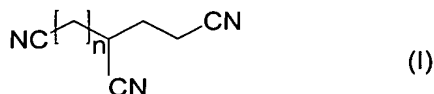


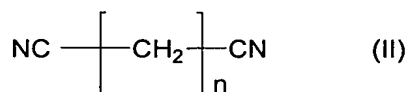
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for producing a tricarbonitrile corresponding to formula I



wherein n is an integer from 2 to 11,

which comprises forming an intermediate in a first stage in the presence of a strong base from an aliphatic  $\alpha$ - $\omega$ -dinitrile corresponding to formula II,



wherein n is an integer from 3 to 12,

and reacting the intermediate in a second stage to form a trinitrile corresponding to formula I by the addition of acrylonitrile.

2. The process of Claim 1 wherein said aliphatic  $\alpha$ - $\omega$ -dinitrile comprises adiponitrile.
3. The process of Claim 1 wherein the synthesis is carried out as a one pot reaction.
4. The process of Claim 1 wherein the strong base is added in an amount of 0.5 to 2 equivalents, based on the  $\alpha$ - $\omega$ -dinitrile.
5. The process of Claim 1 wherein the strong base is added in an amount of 1 to 1.5 equivalents, based on the  $\alpha$ - $\omega$ -dinitrile.
6. The process of Claim 1 wherein the first reaction stage is carried out at a temperature of 70 to 120 °C.

7. The process of Claim 1 wherein the second reaction stage is carried out at a temperature of 0 to 120 °C.

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